

CITY OF KASSON, MN

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

October of 2016

Purpose:

By implementing the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan, the City of Kasson will be taking preemptive action to spread out the financial and environmental impact of tree removal, tree injections and replacement costs caused by the large scale loss of Ash trees due to the anticipated spread of EAB in Kasson. Our intension is to use strategies gained from the experiences of other cities and states having a history with the EAB outbreak as well as state and federal agency expertise.

Introduction:

The EAB is a non-native beetle first discovered in the United States in Detroit, Michigan, in 2002. The insect has since spread to fourteen states and two Canadian provinces, killing all Ash trees in its path. The City of Kasson must prepare and manage for this arrival of EAB on three fronts – street trees, public property (i.e. parks) and trees on private property. In 2009 the EAB was detected in Minneapolis and St. Paul, in 2010 it was found on the southeastern corner of Houston County and in 2011, the far eastern part of Winona County. In 2014, Olmsted County was added to the Quarantine list and just recently in September of 2016, Dodge County was added to the list. The natural spread of the beetle is a maximum six miles per year, but when carried by ash wooden products, in particular firewood, its travel range is unlimited. The evidence from Michigan and Ohio show that once EAB becomes established – it takes about five to ten years to infest and kill the majority of all ash trees in a city.

It is estimated that in the City of Kasson, 4.5% of the trees are a variety of Ash. That would be nearly 525 boulevard, public and private trees that will become diseased and die in the near future. We do know that EAB has been detected in the City of Kasson in September of 2016. Remember, early stages can go undetected for 2 to 3 years before the damage can occur on a large scale to the cities Ash trees.

Administration:

The Public Works Department, through the City Forester and Parks and Recreation Department, will be responsible for implementation and follow up of this plan.

Plan:

1. The City will make educational announcements related to early detection of the EAB. City staff and local state staff are trained in identification of the EAB.

2. The City will begin by announcing the policy of excluding any new ash trees on public property and boulevards – with the recommendation that the citizens and businesses discontinue the use of ash in new plantings.
3. The City will remove any boulevard ash tree(s) at citizen request, at no cost to the property owner. A tree removal list will be started and trees will be removed on the list in proper order, unless the Ash tree(s) is considered hazardous to the public which then it would be removed immediately.
4. The Parks and Forestry division shall begin to Inventory any poor quality ash trees or trees in fair condition with major defects. Notices of removals will be given to property owners in advance of any ash tree removals. **(THE CITY WILL NOT REMOVE ANY ASH TREE(S) ON BOULEVARDS UNTIL THE CITY HAS APPROVAL FROM THE HOMEOWNER.)**
5. Poor quality ash trees within the cities properties will be removed and replaced with an appropriate tree representing a diversity of tree varieties. **(GOOD TO EXCELLENT QUALITY ASH TREE(S) MAY BE CHEMICALLY TREATED WITH COUNCIL APPROVAL ONLY.)** Ash tree(s) on the boulevard with Council Approval, could qualify for a 50/50 share cost of the chemical injections with monies approved in the forestry budget bi-annually. This would mean that the first **150 BOULEVARD** trees that have been registered at city hall in 2017, would qualify for the biannual injection. The city would enter into an agreement for 5 injections for each tree which means around 10 years, it would be up to the homeowner to provide full cost of that particular tree(s) thereafter. If the homeowner at any time of the 10 year agreement does not fulfill the 50/50 share cost, the agreement would no longer exist for that tree(s) or address. Payment from the homeowner must be dropped off to city hall before the tree(s) can be chemically injected. Property owners must supply total cost of treatment to city hall before treatment is provided and what company will be providing the treatment. **REMEMBER: THIS AGREEMENT WILL ABSOLUTLY CONTAIN NO REFUNDS TO PROPERTY OWNERS FROM THE CITY, FOR THE LIFE OF THE 10 YEAR AGREEMENT.**
6. Ash trees on private property will remain the responsibility of the property owner. Any chemical treatment option is a biannual application for the anticipated life of the tree. All property owners must contact City Hall if they decide to chemically treat their boulevard ash tree(s). You as homeowners, will be asked to provide the following: **(A) Name of Homeowner, (B) Address of Tree(s) being treated, (C) Phone Number, (D) Company being used to treat the tree(s), (E) How many are being treated.** The city will keep a record of all boulevard and private ash trees that are chemically treated so that those trees will not be part of the removal process city wide. **KASSON CITY HALL: PHONE# 507-634-7071. ADDRESS – 401 5th Street SE.**

7. It will be the City of Kasson objective to replace as many ash trees as possible on all boulevards, parks and public property, this also includes planting power line tree species under energized wires if the ash trees are removed.
8. Plantings will occur in the spring each year per the Forestry and Park Departments operating budget using the cities Model Street Planting 50% - 50% cost share program. All property owners that have ash tree removals will need to contact the Park Department so that they can be eligible for a new tree species if room on the boulevard will allow the City to replace it.
9. There are many ash trees large and small on private property in Kasson. No reliable inventory exists, and ash densities vary by neighborhood. Property Owners are urged to monitor for the EAB or contact a licensed tree care professional for either treatment options or removal costs to remove ash trees on private properties. If you as homeowners elect not to treat your ash tree(s) or remove them on your property and they become a hazardous or a public safety issue, the city will have the right to enter your property and declare your tree a hazardous safety concern. The cost for the removal of the hazardous tree will be billed to you as the homeowner. **The city will hire a licensed tree care company for all private property removals.**
10. Timeline for best results of injections is between March and October.
11. This plan will be reviewed every five years for accuracy and end results.

Will be considered for adoption by Park Board and City Council
October 2016